

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 11393 191628Z

70

ACTION SCCT-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 SY-04 USSS-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /133 W

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R 191524Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 382

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PLO SY JA

SUBJECT: RED ARMY TERRORISTS IN DAMASCUS

REF: (A) STATE 205018; (B) DAMASCUS 2011

1. MANY BEIRUT PAPERS SEPT 19, CITING SYRIAN OFFICIALS AT DAMASCUS AIRPORT, CARRY REPORT THAT FEDAYEEN ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN YESTERDAY'S AIRPORT NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPANESE RED ARMY TERRORISTS. SEVERAL CLAIM THAT SARG INTENDED HAND ALL FOUR TERRORISTS OVER TO "THE RESISTANCE". ALTHOUGH SARG OFFICIAL STATEMENT PUBLISHED HERE CONTAINED NO MENTION OF WHAT HAPPENED TO DOLS 300,000 RANSOM, LATER REPORTS ALLEGE THAT TERRORISTS LEFT BOTH IT AND THEIR ARMS ON ARICRAFT WHEN THEY FINALLY AGREED DISEMBARK. WE ALSO NOTE THAT SOMEBODY (NOT CLEAR WHO) TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR DELIVERING TERRORISTS' DEFIANT "SURRENDER STATEMENT" TO REUTERS OFFICE IN DAMASCUS.

2. AT SAME TIME, PLO INFORMATION CHIEF YASIR ABD RABBO  
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HAS PUBLICLY DENIED HERE THAT PLO HAD HAD ANYTHING TO

DO WITH THE HAGUE OPERATION OR THAT IT HAD RECEIVED CUSTODY OF THE FOUR JAPANESE TERRORISTS FROM SARG. UNIDENTIFIED SA/TQA AND PFLP SPOKESMEN ALSO GAVE SIMILAR DENIALS TO INQUIRING NEWSMEN LATE SEPT 18.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN RED ARMY'S WELL-KNOWN LINKS WITH PFLP, WOULD SEEM THAT LATTER ORGANIZATION WOULD BE MOST LIKELY FEDAYEEN GROUP TO ACCEPT CUSTODY OF HAGUE TERRORISTS FROM SARG. (STRIKES US THAT SOMEONE FAIRLY WELL KNOWN TO TERRORISTS MUST HAVE TAKEN PART IN YESTERDAY'S AIRPORT NEGOTIATIONS, IF REPORT THAT THEY WERE PERSUADED TO GIVE UP BOTH THEIR WEAPONS AND THEIR SWAG IS TRUE.) HOWEVER, SHOULD BE NOTED THAT PFLP IS NOT RPT NOT IN SARG'S GOOD GRACES, AND WE WONDER WHETHER SARG WOULD HAVE ALLOWED PFLP REPS ACCESS TO TERRORISTS AT AIRPORT.  
GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, PARAMILITARY FORCES, MISSING AIRCRAFT, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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